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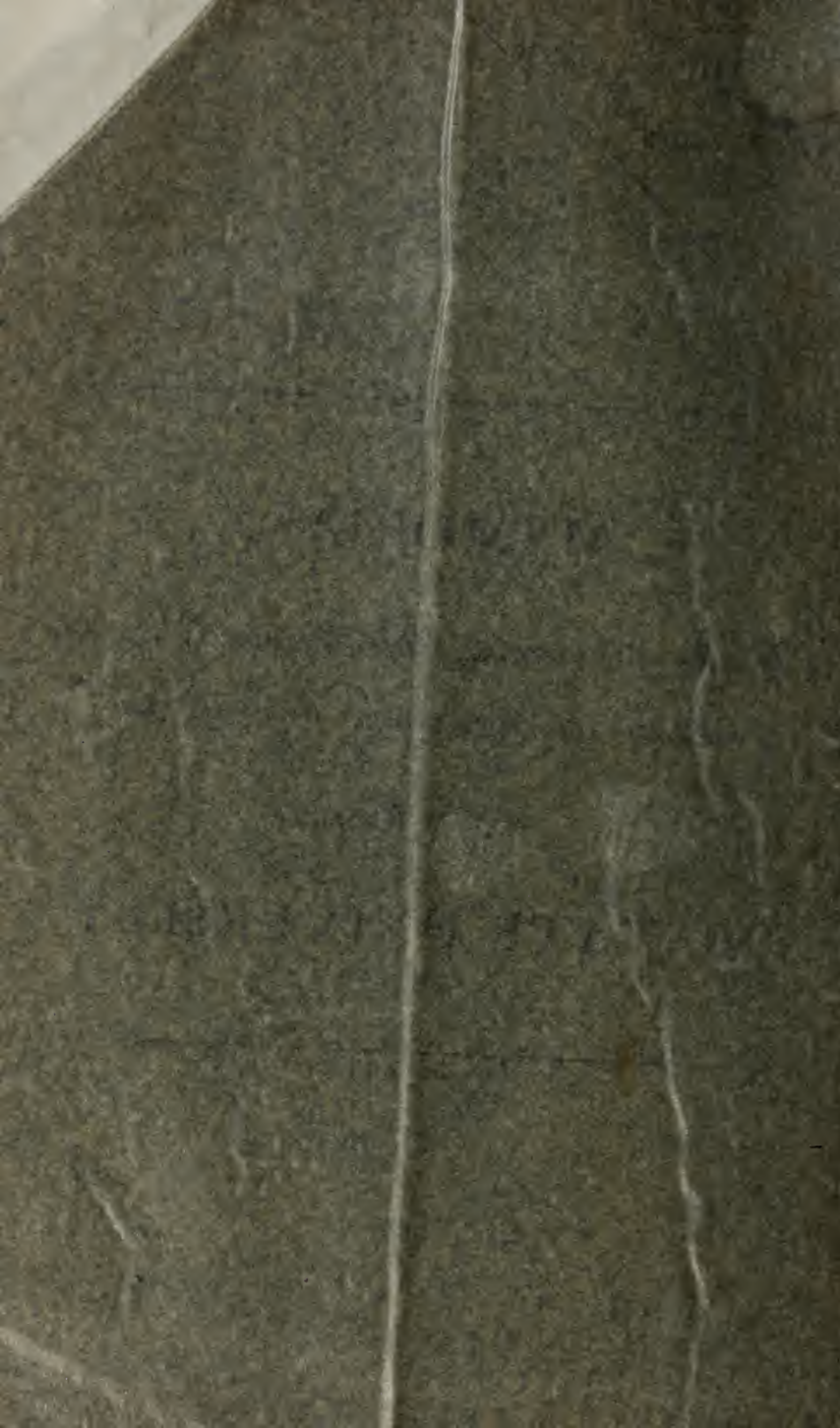
MEMORIAL,

*To the Honorable the Members of the
State Constitutional Convention.*

CONCERNING

“A STATE UNIVERSITY.”

A WHOLE PUBLISHED BY THE STATE OF IOWA



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LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

—AND—

Agricultural and Mechanical College.

*To the Honorable the President and Members of the
Constitutional Convention of the State of Louisiana:*

GENTLEMEN—There has been so much error and misrepresentation, in regard to the ordinance introduced by Mr. George, of Webster, concerning

“ A STATE UNIVERSITY, ”

that I would respectfully beg leave to make the following statement:

The ordinance proposes to unite the Law and Medical Departments of the University of Louisiana, in New Orleans, and this Academic Institution, at Baton Rouge, into *one* State University—under one charter—without any change in the present location of these Departments, or any essential change in their present organization.

The object is:

1. To secure for Louisiana a complete university, instead of having, as now, two incomplete, or fragments of, universities.

2. To relieve Louisiana legislation of the charge, to which it is now amenable, of *not* comprehending what a university is.

3. There is no wish, or intention, to remove the present Academical Department of the University of Louisiana from New Orleans to Baton Rouge. Any assertion to the contrary is purely gratuitous.

There is, indeed, nothing to remove but the *persons* of the professors; and they are not needed, for other professors are already here at Baton Rouge doing identically the same work, and more besides. This institution is a literary school, as well as a scientific one.

But, useless for State purposes, let the Academical Department in New Orleans no longer be considered a State College. It can be very useful, however, as a City College; and such let it be converted into, to be supported out of the public school fund, and controlled by the public school authorities. It has no endowment fund, and the State of Louisiana is now too poor to support it. Let it simply be transferred from the list of University Institutions to Public School Institutions.

4. To keep the Academical Department in New Orleans from being everlastingly in the way of forming a correct system of university-education in Louisiana.

Like some of our Louisiana railroads, dead or dying, it is of no use but to be *in the way* of some other enterprise that might do good, were it out of the way. It lives, at least, *on paper*, and has its chartered privileges

and vested rights. And though all signs of life be gone, and it forgotten long years together, you have only to propose to establish a State University on a proper footing, to see the old skeleton appear and hear its dry bones begin to rattle.

The advantages are :

1. To concentrate the State's resources upon *one* University, to make sure of its success—have *one* good school; instead of dividing the State's resources for higher education between two Universities—to have one, or both, eventually fail, or, at best, be two *poor* schools.

2. To keep *at home*—have educated in Louisiana, through the influence of a first-rate University—the hundreds of Louisiana youths who now go to other States and countries for an education.

The money thus kept in Louisiana, and spent among our own people would be enormous.

3. To prevent the Academic Department in New Orleans from being considered the CITY University, and this Academic Department at Baton Rouge the COUNTRY University, with the prejudice and antipathy that would inevitably ensue, and the serious injury to both.

4. To give the Medical Department of the University in New Orleans sufficient room for its necessary purposes. A portion of its building, as assigned it by law, is now occupied by the Academic Department.

5. To infuse new life and spirit into the Law Department in New Orleans, which for want of proper interest felt and taken in it, for want of proper sympathy and support, is now *drooping*. It closed its recent session with only *twelve* (12) students.

6. To centre the affections and love of the whole people of Louisiana on *one* State Institution of learning; to make the people of the whole State (city and country) *feel* that the Law and Medical Departments in New Orleans, and the Academic Department at Baton Rouge, are *theirs*, belonging to and representing LOUISIANA, and not, as now, the two former to the city and the latter to the country.

This feeling in common, or universality of sentiment—with the sympathy and support it would engender—would alone, without a dollar from the State, build up a *State* school; and without the affection and love of the *people*, of the whole people of LOUISIANA, all efforts of the *State* to found a university are vain.

The sentiment of the people breathed into it, the State University is a *living* soul; without that sentiment, though endowed with all the wealth of Cræsus, it is but a *lifeless* body.

7. To be an active principle in *unifying* the people of Louisiana, educating together youths from city and country, having them grow up together, knowing one another and loving one another; doing away with local prejudice, country against city, and city against coun-

try, now so hurtful to the best interests of the whole people.

So strong is this prejudice, the country holding the balance of power, that one of the great political parties of our State has not consented, *for forty years and more*, to select its candidate for the high office of Governor, from amongst all the admitted talent, and ability, and worth of the great City of New Orleans. Surely, it is time for such folly to stop.

8. State-love and State-pride will grow and intensify under the influence of a strong and respectable State University, complete in all its departments, and capable of affording good academical and professional education.

So much for UNIVERSITY education for the State.

To accommodate such of the bright youths of New Orleans, as may be attending the present Academical Department of the University of Louisiana and the High School in that city, and who may not have the means to attend the State University *here*—say, *twenty per cent.* of those now pursuing collegiate or academic studies *there*, let there be established out of those two institutions (the present Academic Department of the University of Louisiana in New Orleans and the High School of that city)

“ A CITY COLLEGE ”

of high grade, with TUITION FREE, to be supported out of the public school fund, or the general fund, and managed by the public school authorities.

Thus, no youth in New Orleans would be deprived of a single academic facility he now enjoys; and every youth in the State, capable of receiving it, be he rich or be he poor, would have every advantage of a collegiate education, tuition free, that Louisiana could give him, through the New Orleans CITY College and the Louisiana STATE University.

Such are some of the main reasons on which is based Mr. George's ordinance concerning "A State University;" and such some of the chief considerations connected with it. It may be well to dwell on them somewhat at length.

The public institutions of our State ought to be located where the public interests would be best subserved, where the general public of Louisiana would wish them to be. And the several departments of the State University ought, each, to be located at the most suitable point for its own specific work.

No one would think of locating the Medical Department elsewhere than in New Orleans. Few think differently about the location of the Law Department. And the best proof that New Orleans is *not* the place for the Academic Department, is, that while the Law and Medical Departments have, in general, *prospered* in New Orleans, the Academic Department *there*, has in general *failed*.

From 1860 to 1878, the Academic Department of the University of Louisiana (in New Orleans)

had no existence whatever; and *before* 1860 it had no existence, if we are correctly informed, except such as it obtained through its *private* lessees, Messrs. Dufau & Sears.

Few parents, residing out of New Orleans, would think of sending a son to college in New Orleans; and not many residents even of New Orleans, would patronize a college located *there*, except those who have not the means of sending their sons to college *out of* New Orleans, or those residents who may use it for a short time as a preparatory school for some other college.

Three out of every four persons in Louisiana live out of New Orleans—in the country; and it is idle to expect country parents to send their sons to college in that city,

What means the heavy *outgo* of New Orleans people every year, beginning in May and June, and their return only in October and November, if New Orleans is a *good* place for *continuous*, earnest college work for nine or ten months in the year? No; the same reason that points so strongly to New Orleans as the proper place for the *Medical* Department, warns us *not* to commit the folly of locating the Academic Department of the University *there*. But for such students as poverty, or other fortuitous circumstances, may prevent leaving New Orleans for academic advantages, let us establish a *City* college of high grade, to be supported out of the City

Public School Fund, or the General Fund, and managed by the City school authorities.

An Academic Department of a *State* University, if located in New Orleans, can never be, in fact, a *State* college. It can never be really other than a *local* city college. Then let the one there now be, in law and name, what virtually it is, a *city* college, and under city control, with TUITION FREE.

Louisiana, in her poverty and sparseness of population, cannot afford to sustain *two* STATE colleges of letters and science, one here and another in New Orleans. Colleges and Universities—to be efficient—can but be costly. After buildings are erected, and able professors secured, then comes the greater expense of suitable libraries, apparatus, museums, etc. Without these helps, any college, however able its faculty, must fall far short of doing its proper work. The Academic Department of the University of Louisiana, in New Orleans, has, we believe, little or nothing of these necessary aids to successful instruction; and to supply them, would cost the State many thousand dollars. At Baton Rouge, a beginning has already been made in procuring an apparatus, museum and library—the library of 14,000 volumes, the best in Louisiana, and the third college library in importance in the South.

The question would naturally arise: why should a STATE, in the financial distress in which Louisiana finds herself, go to the unnecessary expense of *duplicating* a

costly library, apparatus, museum, etc., to say nothing of duplicating costly professorships in New Orleans, when the State College already established in Baton Rouge, and founded on the United States grants, has the same, and other chairs, and will answer all reasonable purposes of *State Academical Education*?

Louisiana is, we believe, the only State in the Union which has placed the Academic Department of its *State University* in its chief city, or indeed in a large city. And the past experience of Louisiana in this regard would not warrant the present STATE Convention in continuing or attempting to maintain such Academic Department of the University in New Orleans in the future.

In some of the large cities of our country, colleges have been founded and located by private or sectarian agencies. Notably, the Columbia College in the City of New York, and the wealthiest college in the United States. Yet its able President, Dr. F. A. P. Barnard, well known in our Southwest as the former President of the University of Mississippi, in an able paper to the Board of Trustees in 1870, recommended the *removal* of that college to some location *in the country*, because the college, with all its wealth—say \$20,000,000 of endowment—and with all its powerful patrons and friends, could never attain to the full measure of its usefulness *in the city* of New York.

Vanderbilt gave the university that bears his name

to Nashville, and Johns Hopkins did the same for Baltimore; the States of Tennessee and Maryland, however, locating their *State* Institutions, or colleges respectively, in the smaller cities of Knoxville and Annapolis. And if some millionaire would plant a great university in New Orleans, let us all rejoice. But let the *State* of Louisiana act as wisely as Maryland and Tennessee have done, and locate its *State* Academical College elsewhere than in New Orleans.

While no State but Louisiana has, we believe, established any Department of its *State* University in a great city, except such *professional* departments as those of Law, Medicine, etc., yet in all the principal cities of this country, there is a High School or City College as a part of the *public school system*. And such there should be in New Orleans, for the benefit of the bright young fellows of that city, who would receive, and thirst for, high academical learning, but who have not the means to go *out of* New Orleans to obtain it; and to all such poor, but worthy, youths, tuition should be *free*, and not, as now, in the Academical Department of the University of Louisiana, at a charge of some \$36 a session.

We have thus far spoken mainly of Academical Education, but Medical Education is, perhaps, of more vital concern to Louisiana.

When we reflect how much the material prosperity of the State, and especially that of New Orleans, depends

on its healthfulness, we can hardly under-estimate the services of the highly educated and skilful physician. And what is Louisiana doing for Medical Education? Beyond the personal exertions of a few devoted physicians, almost nothing.

Go to the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana in New Orleans, and the true lover of learning will be surprised, and mortified, at the too patent signs of neglect by the State. A museum, good twenty years ago, but nothing, we believe, done for it since; no library or reading-room for the medical students, and the professors even cramped for room (space) for their necessary purposes of instruction, and that because the *Academical* Department has been thrust in upon them, and now occupies a portion of the quarters which the law designed for the *Medical* Department.

Such is, at present, the bad condition of the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana, in New Orleans, and such the poor facilities for instruction which the State of Louisiana has extended to its able Medical Faculty. It is our wish to come to the relief of the Medical Department by removing from it the intrusive presence, in its own proper quarters, of the Academic Department, which has no warrant in law, or public necessity, to be there in the east wing of the University Building.

The faculty of the Medical Department memorialized the Legislature, March 3d, 1877, to remove from their

building the Agricultural and Mechanical College which had been *temporarily* placed in it in 1874. The reason assigned was that they needed the *whole* building for their necessary purposes, and that the presence of the Agricultural and Mechanical College was an injustice and injury to the Medical college, to which the Legislature in 1861, on the collapse of the Academical Department, had given the whole east wing of the University Building, except two rooms which should be devoted to the New Orleans Academy of Sciences.

The Legislature in 1877, was so impressed with the force of the memorial of the Medical Faculty that the act of 1874, establishing an Agricultural and Mechanical College was repealed in so far as it affected the building or quarters of the Medical College. The Agricultural and Mechanical College was ordered *out*, and the building directed to be restored to those whom the Legislature had, in 1874 directed to give it *temporarily* to the Agricultural and Mechanical College, viz: to the Board of Administrators of the University for the use, of course, of the Medical Department. This was the intention, if not the words, of the law.

The undersigned, acting in his official capacity as President of the Agricultural and Mechanical College did, in November, 1877, actually "restore" said building to the University of Louisiana, by formally delivering the keys to the Dean of the Medical Faculty.

The act of 1877, passed at the instance of the Medical

Faculty, was designed to "*repeal*" the act of 1874, in so far as it took from them, through their governing board of Administrators, a portion of their building, and to "*restore*" it back to them, through the same administrative agency. The Legislature, whatever its ultimate object, could only deal properly in either case, of taking away or restoring the building, through the corporate authorities of the University, namely, through the Board of Administrators.

If this position is correct, it is *contrary to law* for the Academic Department of the University to occupy any portion of the east (or Medical) wing of the University Building. And as it is occupying essentially the same portion of the building, from which the Legislature removed the Agricultural and Mechanical College, because it was an imposition upon, and an interference with, the Medical Department; clearly, the Academical Department must be equally in the way of, and equally a hindrance, to the Medical Department.

The Law Department, for some reason or other, is *not* doing well, only some TWELVE students on the roll at the recent commencement. It has but little to call its own besides the brains of its professors and its past glorious history. A furniture cart could carry all its matériel, and then not have a full load.

Such, then, is the status of the University of Louisiana in New Orleans: an Academical Department dead one day and dying the next, of only THREE (3) pro-

fessors, with none of the necessary appliances for a college, and useless at best for a STATE school, a Medical Department neglected by the State, and as if that were not difficulty enough to encounter, the Academical Department thrust in upon it, contrary to law, and depriving it of the necessary room or space, to grow and manœuvre in; and a Law Department that may almost be said to have failed outright.

Some change is necessary in that institution, some new life needed; and we propose to make that change, to put University education in Louisiana on a proper footing, and to infuse the necessary vitality into all its departments, by dropping from its organization all that is useless, and concentrating our energies and resources on only what is necessary.

The Academical Department in New Orleans is useless as a STATE school, and as such can never prosper, but it can be turned into a *city* college or high school, becoming the crown of the city system of public schools; and such let it be made into.

New York has its *State* Academical Department at Ithaca, and New York City has its own *city* college (or University) as a part of its city public school system. Maryland has its *State* college at Annapolis, while Baltimore has its *city* college, as its highest city public school. Ohio has its *State* college near Columbus, and Cincinnati its free public *city* college. Illinois has its *State* University at Urbana, Chicago having at the

same time its own *city* high school. Similarly, Michigan, Missouri, California and other States, have their one, *and only one*, State University, located usually in a country district or in some small city, while the large cities of those States have, each, their own *city* high schools, or *city* colleges, FREE TO ALL.

Now, what does all this show? Simply, that the States generally recognize A DIFFERENCE IN PRINCIPLE between a UNIVERSITY system of education, and a PUBLIC SCHOOL system of education. And so there is. You see wisdom and experience tending all the while to CONCENTRATE the State's resources for the higher or University Education, but to SCATTER its resources as far as practicable (without waste) for Elementary Education. That is; put, if possible, a public school in every neighborhood in the State, with a high school, or even local college, in the principal towns and cities: this is a correct PUBLIC SCHOOL system; but when you come to a system of UNIVERSITY education, the reverse should be your rule of action. CONCENTRATE! CONCENTRATE, is the true principle of higher University Education; and it is an axiom now among all able educators in this country and in Europe. -

Depart from this law and you must pay the penalty of having a weak, inefficient system of higher Academic Education. In the United States, generally, we have too many colleges and universities—say 400; and the result is, their general inefficiency—Louisiana, even, having six or eight, and *all* together would not make

one good university. England is wiser; with all her population and wealth, she has but six Universities; and imperial Prussia has but eight.

This State of Louisiana cannot properly support two State Academical Colleges; and the Academical Department of the University of Louisiana, in New Orleans, has but little right to expect a re-chartering (if, indeed, it has now a *legal* charter) after lying *actually dead* from 1860 to 1878, eighteen years of its so-called (or paper) existence, and only resurrected last year by the perversion of the POLL TAX from its true and legitimate application to the free public schools, the Charity Hospital and "THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS." (See constitution of 1868, articles 141 and 142.)

The old "University of Louisiana," of the constitutions of 1864, 1852, etc., was *not* rechartered or provided for, in the constitution of 1868. The "University of New Orleans," as contemplated and provided for by the present constitution of 1868, has never been chartered and established by the Legislature. Therefore, in no sense, can the Academical Department of the old "University of Louisiana" be legally and properly considered to be a department of an institution, which has never existed, namely, of "*the University of New Orleans*," and which alone under the constitution of 1868, did it exist, would be entitled to a portion of the poll-tax.

If Louisiana could afford *in money* to do what no

other State in the Union attempts to do—have two Academical Departments of State Universities, she cannot afford it *in sentiment*—in the affection and love which she must give the two, to make them a success. A man might afford *in money* to have *two* wives, but *in affection and love*, and in the well-being of his family, he could *not* afford it. Equally impolitic, foolish and mad, would it be for Louisiana, with her scanty population, out of which to cultivate a strong sentiment or spirit of State love and State pride, to divide her affections between two rival State Academical Colleges. No; we can now have one, and no more; and let us not be guilty of the folly of attempting to have *two*.

Colleges and Universities cannot be built of money alone, of brick and mortar, nor indeed of able professors simply. A college is a *family*; and there must gather around it the affections of its children—of its alumni; else all *State* effort is in vain.

Take away from the great schools of this country—from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, the University of Virginia, the sentiment, the spirit, the love, the affection of their students, and indirectly through them the respect and veneration of the general public; and you have *a body without a soul*—the form and paraphernalia of a college without its animating spirit. No; sentiment is better than money to build up a school, a church, a family, a nation, or any party or sect.

What Louisiana stands most in need of to-day is, not

levees, or money even to pay its State debt, or other element of material prosperity; but it is a banding together of her people into one brotherhood—a fusing of us all in spirit—from Arkansas to the Gulf, and from Mississippi to Texas—into one mighty, deep, irresistible current of State pride and State love. And in no way can we bring this about so well as to have a proper system of public education: 1st. Free schools that shall reach every child, rich or poor, in the State; and, 2d. A State University that shall serve as a great reservoir of thought and learning, to feed the numberless public schools in every neighborhood, in every parish, and that shall gather around it, and centre upon it, the love and affection, and prayers of every man, woman and child in Louisiana.

There are *many* stars in the heavens, and but *one* sun. So, there should be many *schools* in Louisiana, but all to receive their light and vitality from one *University*. Hither let them come and replenish themselves, and then go back and make distribution among their pupils and the people. Let it be so that—

“Hither as to their fountains other stars

Repairing, in their golden urns, draw light.”

The great commentator on English law has well said that “the sciences are of a *sociable* disposition, and flourish best in the *neighborhood* of each other.” It is truly a misfortune to Louisiana that all the departments of her State University cannot well be together, at the

same location. But the reasons for their separation are insuperable; no one locality can be found in the State where each and every department would best thrive.

Nor is Louisiana alone, of the States, in this particular. Georgia has the Academic and Law Departments of her University at Athens, and the Medical Department down in Augusta. Union University (formerly Union College) at Schenectady, New York, has its Law and Medical Departments at Albany. Kentucky University, at Lexington, Tennessee University, at Knoxville, and California University, at Berkeley, have their Medical Departments, respectively, in Louisville, Nashville and San Francisco.

No; the several departments of a great institution of learning cannot always be together. Desirable as it is to have them associated actually together, the public interest may demand that they be separated—that each be located where it may do most good. But let no State commit the folly of having a *double* set of such departments, and, above all, of *two*, or more, Academic Departments of a *State* University.

Law and Medical students should have had a good academical training, and that they should receive, together, at the same Academical Institution, at the one, and only one, Academical Department of the STATE University. Thus, would the Law and Medical students in *New Orleans* have a common alma mater in the *country*, and Law students and Medi-

cal students, and Academic students, would all be inspired with a common love for the STATE University and all its departments. The University, however separated and distant its several departments, would thus be *one*: one in its charter, one in its spirit, and one in the affections of the people.

Such a University, Louisiana can foster and make flourish; but she can have only *one* such. And *such* a University—the middle-aged and the old looking *back* at it with pride and affection, and the youth of the land looking *forward* to it with hope and ambition—will do more to make Louisiana one in sentiment and sympathy, and united in all the moral elements that go to make up a great and glorious people, than all other human agencies combined.

Nor is this idea of making the State University, at Baton Rouge, the literary and scientific department of the University of Louisiana, or of combining that Institution and the Law and Medical Departments in New Orleans under one charter and in one corporate name, a *new* one. As far back as 1858, you will find reference made to it in the Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Education to the Legislature, with the remark, that 'he understands that a memorial will be presented to that body, praying for legislation to that effect.' In 1866, a committee of the Legislature conferred with the administrators, and other officers, of the University of Louisiana upon the subject. Nothing further, at that time, was done, because there was some

doubt whether it was *then* constitutional to make such union. So, the matter rested until 1878—all the while, however, from 1858, or before, the question was *alive* in the minds of some of the ablest and best men in the State. Last year it was actively revived; and the lead then taken in its favor by those who are now its chief, opponents, the Board of Administrators of the University of Louisiana, in New Orleans.

That Board of Administrators asked the Legislature to pass what became the twenty-first proposed amendment to the constitution of the State, by which the fusion—into one and the same Institution—of the Law and Medical Departments of *that* Institution, in New Orleans, and *this* Academic Institution here, in Baton Rouge, could be effected. But the ink was hardly dry on that paper of *their own making*—the proposed twenty-first amendment, before that Board, in the absence of some of its ablest and best members, *repudiated their own act*, and set to work to defeat the twenty-first amendment (which they themselves had asked the Legislature to pass), and to resurrect their *Academical* Department, after it had lain in its grave eighteen years !

This they were enabled to do, by having obtained through the forms of the law, yet wrongfully and improperly, twenty-five per cent. of the poll tax of the State, since 1868; money wrenched alike, by the remorseless tax-gatherer, from the poor man in the country and the poor man in the city, whose own chil-

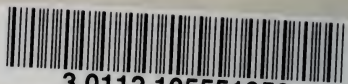
dren are left without proper schooling—to educate rich men's sons in New Orleans.

Should your honorable body not approve of the views, as above expressed, and re-charter the University of Louisiana, as it now is, let us all cheerfully acquiesce, and hope that it may be supported as liberally as possible from the treasury of the State, without which aid the Academic Department will but surely repeat its former history—DEAD ONE DAY AND DYING THE NEXT?

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID F. BOYD.

BATON ROUGE, LA., JULY 7, 1879.



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